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## NEWS DEPARTMENT

### *Echo of the Boit Journal*

In January, 1921, the *Washington Historical Quarterly*, through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, was enabled to print the Boit Journal, calling it "A New Log of the Columbia." All of the journal pertaining to the northwest coast of America was reproduced with elaborate introduction and notes. The publication resulted in the receipt of many commendations and compliments, one writer saying it was the most important historical "find" in the Pacific Northwest for a quarter of a century.

However, the most sincere and flattering compliment comes from a sister publication, *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, which more than a year later reprints the same materials. The December, 1921, number appears in March, 1922, devoting practically the entire issue to this subject. The reason for reprinting in this same Northwestern field is given as follows: "The considerations that compel the reprinting complete of the Boit log of the *Columbia* in the *Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society* are connected primarily with the specially planned annotations with which it here appears."

The plan consists of an introduction by Professor F. G. Young and footnotes by Judge F. W. Howay, except on entries made when the *Columbia* was south of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, when the footnotes were made by Mr. T. C. Elliott.

Three men and a year's time have added much of value to the footnotes. One example will suffice to show this. In the original publication the editor puzzled a long time over the confusion of latitude, longitude, and leagues in the sources referring to Port Tempest and Massacre Cove. He cited authorities and concluded his footnote with this statement: "If these descriptions could be studied by someone familiar with those shores a more complete identification of the cove might be arrived at."

At the end of the Boit Journal in the Oregon publication, Judge Howay adds a "Supplementary Note on the Identification of Port Tempest and Massacre Cove." It is a long citation of sources, in which he acknowledges his "indebtedness to Dr. C. F. Newcombe, of Victoria, B. C., for his assistance in working out this identification. His local knowledge of the region is invaluable." The result

of the joint efforts is given by Judge Howay as follows: "These reasons lead to the position that Port Tempest is identical with the western end of Revillagigedo Channel. It is not urged that they conclusively settle the question. They are merely put forward as a contribution to the effort to solve a problem that, though small and unimportant, is attractive because of its very difficulties."

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### *First Election at Olympia*

Whether or not an election was held in the Puget Sound country before the creation of Washington Territory, was a question of debate among writers and antiquarians until the Washington State Historical Society secured original documentary evidence. In the library of the organization, at Tacoma, the document is numbered 2683. It is entitled: "Poll Book for an Election to be held at the storehouse of M. T. Simmons in Olympia, Thurston County on Monday the 7th day of June, 1852. A. M. Poe, Clerk Lewis Co."

Mr. W. P. Bonney, Secretary of the Washington State Historical Society, has presented to this *Quarterly* a photograph of the rare item.

On the left margin are the names of eighty-six of those pioneer voters. The names are all written in the same hand and several are misspelled. However, the list is important and is given here in full: M. T. Simmons, W. W. Miller, R. S. Bailey, Sidney S. Forde, Benges Gerden, I. Colvin, Quincy A. Brooks, Assher Sargent, A. D. Fisher, A. B. Moses, John L. Butler, T. W. Glasco, Joseph S. Beshers, James Mortan, Henry M. Hills, H. A. Goldsburrow, I. B. Power, Samuel J. Rieber, O. Cushman, E. N. Sargent, A. R. Skidmore, John L. Parkins, Ruel W. Ross, Gabriel Jones, James T. Philips, Isac M. Brown, A. M. Poe, David Shelton, S. S. Sidener, Jacob Smith, James McAlister, Grun McCafferty, Benjamin F. Moore, John D. Tonis, Joseph Tebow, William O. Thomson, John Remley, Charles Eaton, Charles E. Weede, David Kindred, Washington Tyril, John R. Kindred, W. P. Wells, David Chambers, Gideon Thomson, Wilson H. Fisher, Wesley Gosnell, William F. Oleaver, Jessy Ferguson, James Taler, James Head, Nathan Eaton, R. M. Walker, John Elexsander, Isaac D. Shay, E. Richey, W. Carthy, Albert Bras, H. W. Kins, Edman Sylvester, George A. Barns, Henry Buckingham, Steven D. Rudle, James R. Wood, C. Ethridge, John C. Wood, Samuel H. Williams, Nelson Barnes,

Asher W. Sargent, Andrew J. Simmons, Adam Wylie, Clany Crosby, Henry Handle, Isaac W. Wood, R. P. Willis, William Shearwood, James R. Johnson, David Pattee, A. A. Denny, Fredricke Williams, Charels Foster, John Eadger, Ira Ward, Nicas Delaim, S. Hays, Henry Barnes.

On the same pages, to the right of the list of voters, are the tally-sheet of the election, the certificate of the result signed by A. R. Skidmore and S. S. Sidener as clerks, and the oath of office administered to the officers of the election. The oath is a quaint bit of composition as follows:

"Oregon Teritory, County of Thurston, ss. Personally appeared Elisia N. Sargent Ruel Ross Judges of this Election S. S. Sidener and A. R. Skidmore Clerks of the same who so solmny sworn to perform the Duties of Judges and Clerks of said election according to law to the best of their abilities and studiously to endeavor to prevent fraud abuse and deceit in conducting the same. Sworn to and subscribed before me this Seventh day of June A. D. 1852."

The two judges and the two clerks signed the oath as did the one who administered it. In fact he signed it twice, once as A. Benton Moses and once as A. B. Moses.

The tally-sheet shows that all on the list had voted. For Representative in the Oregon Territorial Legislature Isaac N. Ebey received 77 votes and S. Balch, 9. There were to be chosen three county Commissioners and the vote stood: Sidney S. Ford, 77; A. A. Denny, 57; David Shelton, 78; Thomas M. Chambers, 29; Nathan Eaton, 12. Messrs. Ford, Denny and Shelton were elected. The pioneers seem to have been confused about their voting for Probate Judge. The tally-sheet shows that one was to be chosen. The vote was: Nathan Eaton, 5; Sidney S. Ford, 73; A. A. Denny, 51; David Shelton, 73; Thomas Chambers, 25. There is no indication as to how the tie between Ford and Shelton was settled. D. R. Bigelow was elected Treasurer with 78 votes, the others being William Packwood, 4; William P. Daugherty, 6. Benjamin F. Shaw was elected Sheriff with 58 votes, Andrew J. Simmons receiving 25 votes. A. M. Poe was not opposed for County Clerk, receiving 83 votes. For Assessor, R. S. Baily received 77 votes, John M. Chapman receiving 6 votes and Nathan Eaton, one. The columns for Coroner were blank, no votes being recorded. For School Commissioner, Quincy A. Brooks received 79 votes and Adam Wiley, 7.

For the one Justice of the Peace, Whitfield Kirtby received 48 votes and Jackson Masses, one. For Constable, the vote stood A. B. Moses, 61 and James K. Wood, 8.

In contemplating the value of this rare old historical document it should be remembered that at the time of the election there were but three other counties in Northern Oregon. These were Clarke, Lewis and Pacific. The Thurston County holding the election was a huge area extending northward from Olympia to the Canadian boundary. As soon as Washington Territory was organized the area was rapidly subdivided into other counties.

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#### *The Henry Villard Papers*

Mr. F. W. Dewart of Spokane has called attention to the following announcement in the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin*:

"The Widener Library has received from the family of the late Henry Villard his letters and business records covering his entire career as a railroad and steamship executive from 1874 until his retirement from business in 1895. During this time Mr. Villard was receiver for the Kansas & Pacific Railroad, and president of the North American Co., the Oregon Improvement Co., the Northern Pacific, which railroad he completed in 1883, the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Co., the Oregon & California Railroad, and the Oregon Transcontinental Co. Mr. Villard was also one of the founders of both the North American Co. and the General Electric Co., of which he was the first president.

"His papers and correspondence relating to all these companies form a record of the railroad development of the Pacific Northwest, and the important part which German capital played in the financing of the roads, the documents and correspondence relating to which are included in the gift to the Library. This donation is to be credited to the Commission on Western History, which was disbanded last year, of which Oswald Garrison Villard, '93, the editor of the *Nation*, was a member. The other donors are Harold G. Villard, '90, and Mrs. Henry Villard.

"Henry Villard was greatly interested in Harvard University; on one occasion he donated \$25,000 to the Law School Library, and he left \$50,000 to the College in his will."

There should be added to the above a statement showing that Mr. Villard also showed his interest in education in the Pacific

Northwest. When both institutions were in need of help, he gave from his personal funds to the University of Oregon and the Territorial University of Washington. Readers of the *Washington Historical Quarterly* will be pleased to learn more about those papers as soon as they are made available at Harvard.

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*Early Archives of Vancouver*

Hon. Bernard Pelly, British Consul in Seattle, sends the following clipping from a London newspaper telling about a gift of important historical documents to the Provincial Library at Victoria:

"The Agent-General of British Columbia was yesterday presented with the earliest original archives connected with the institution of representative government on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. They include the appointments under the Great Seal, dated July, 1849, of his Excellency Richard Blanshard, the first Governor, and Commander-in-Chief over the Island of Vancouver and its dependencies. Another book consists of many official documents on the colonisation of Vancouver Island, Hudson Bay Company rule, and returns to addresses. The gentleman who has enriched the Government of British Columbia with this gift made only two stipulations: First, that the archives should be always on exhibition and readily accessible in the Legislative Library at Victoria, and, second, that his identity should not be revealed.

"The Agent-General strongly urged that the publication of the name of the donor might lead to many other persons in Great Britain in possession of autograph letters and other archives of the first colonisation of the island to follow his example and add to the historical treasures of the library. On these representations being made Sir Leicester Harmsworth finally consented to the publication of his name."

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*Whitman County Pioneers*

Mr. J. Orin Oliphant, who graduated from the University of Washington in the class of 1916, since his return from service in the World War, has been serving as Executive Secretary of the State Normal School at Cheney. He is greatly interested in the history of the Pacific Northwest and lately has been conducting a

feature department in the *Colfax Gazette* entitled: "Sketches of Whitman County Pioneers; Experiences of Men and Women Who Helped Develop Eastern Washington." The paper is published on each Friday and the sketches thus far published number eleven. For the use of genealogists and writers the list is here given with the dates of publication:

- I. Benjamin F. Manring, 27 January, 1922.
- II. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. D. Cornelius, 3 February, 1922.
- III. Mrs. Mary White, 10 February, 1922.
- IV. Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Harlow, 17 February, 1922.
- V. James S. Taylor, 24 February, 1922.
- VI. Henry Litzenberger, 24 February, 1922.
- VII. Mrs. Elizabeth Baker, 3 March, 1922.
- VIII. Clyde Leonard Crawford, 3 March, 1922.
- IX. Francis H. Brown, 10 March, 1922.
- X. Charles E. Riggs, 10 March, 1922.
- XI. James H. Stevenson, 17 March, 1922.